

b.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Amended) A DNA encoding the protein having the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO. 2.
3. (Original) A DNA having the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO. 1.
4. (Currently Amended) A DNA capable of hybridizing to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 of the DNA according to Claim 2 or 3 under stringent conditions ~~and having, which has~~ 95% or more homology with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 of said DNA, and encoding a protein having apoptosis-suppressing activities.
5. (Previously Amended) A recombinant vector containing the DNA according to any one of Claims 2 or 3 and a vector.
6. (Original) A transformant which is obtained by introducing the vector according to Claim 5 into a host cell.
7. (Currently Amended) A process for producing protein, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 6 in a medium to produce and accumulate the human Napl protein encoded by the DNA according to claim 2 or 3 ~~having the amino acid~~

~~sequence represented by SEQ ID NO. 2 or a protein having an amino acid sequence which includes substitution, deletion or addition of one or more amino acids of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO. 2 and having apoptosis-suppressing activities in the culture and harvesting the protein from the culture to be obtained.~~

Claim 8-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously added) A recombinant vector containing the DNA according to Claim 4 and a vector.

21. (Previously added) A transformant which is obtained by introducing the vector according to Claim 20 into a host cell.

Claims 22-38. (Cancelled).

39. (New) A process for producing protein, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 21 in a medium to produce and accumulate human Napl protein encoded by the DNA according to claim 4 in the culture and harvesting the protein from the culture to be obtained.